



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

- 1. DNR to increase penalties for late manure management plans**
- 2. City of Anamosa fails to timely report wastewater bypass**

DNR TO INCREASE PENALTIES FOR LATE MANURE MANAGEMENT PLANS

DES MOINES – The DNR has raised penalties for late updates of annual manure management plans.

“Raising penalties is the result of consultation with producer groups and consultants, who asked the DNR to reward the majority of livestock producers who are meeting state requirements and increase penalties for those few producers who are not,” said Ken Hessenius, supervisor of the Spencer DNR field office.

Hessenius said that there is a substantial increase in penalties, up to \$3,000.

The DNR will issue penalties to producers who have been notified when the update was due and who are at least six weeks late in submitting one.

“The manure management plan can differ substantially from year to year,” said Ed Tormey, DNR’s legal chief. “Not only does state law specifically require annual updates, but the updates indicate any changes as to where and how manure will be applied. The updates help the DNR in determining if the producer is complying with state laws.”

Tormey added that the DNR had promised producer groups that penalties would be increased until they became a deterrent so that the state requirements would be taken more seriously.

“This will also help our field offices cut down on the number of folks who routinely file these plans several weeks late,” said Hessenius. “We spend a substantial amount of time notifying producers of when their plans are due and when they are late.”

Manure management plans are required for animal confinements that have more than 500 animal units, which is 1,250 finishing swine, 500 beef cattle or 357 dairy cows. Each year, producers must file a plan update with the DNR and with each county where manure is spread or stored. Along with the update, producers must pay an annual fee based on the number of animals they have.

For more information, contact Ken Hessenius at 712-262-4177.

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CITY OF ANAMOSA FAILS TO TIMELY REPORT WASTEWATER BYPASS

ANAMOSA — The City of Anamosa will receive a notice of violation from the DNR for failing to report a wastewater bypass within 12 hours.

City workers discovered debris in Fawn Creek Monday at 4:30 p.m. following an odor complaint from a citizen. The workers found grease in the creek, which currently does not have a water flow. The city did not report the bypass until 9:30 Tuesday morning. Bypasses caused by mechanical failures must be reported to the DNR within 12 hours of onset or discovery. Bypasses and spills that occur outside normal business hours can be reported to the DNR’s 24-hour spill hotline, (515) 281-8694.

“Reporting bypasses within 12 hours is required, but reporting as soon as possible allows us to provide the best assistance and to allow time to notify downstream water users,” said Sue Miller, an environmental specialist with the DNR’s Manchester field office. “Many times we can help the operator think of ways to stop the bypass and determine cleanup options.”

The city’s wastewater operator believes that a four-inch sewer line from the Second Street lift station became plugged with grease, causing an estimated 1,000 gallons of wastewater to overflow into the creek. The bypass had stopped by the time city workers discovered the grease, which the city has since removed.

For more information, contact Sue Miller at (563) 927-2640.